

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 ACDA-12 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/112 W

-----043471 080750Z /14

R 071755Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9143

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 1660

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, CH, US, ML

SUBJECT: BILATERAL EVENING WITH PRC EMBASSY PERSONNEL

REF: BAMA KO 1187

1. SUMMARY: THE U.S.-PRC DINNER-FILM EVENING TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED APRIL 5 AT THE RESIDENCE. IT WAS PLEASANT BUT ALMOST ENTIRELY NON-SUBSTANTIVE. CONTACTS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BILATERAL DINNER-FILM EVENING WITH MEMBERS OF THE PRC EMBASSY TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED ON APRIL 5 AT THE RESIDENCE. I GAVE THEM AN AMERICAN TURKEY DINNER AND WE SHOWED THE VTR OF THE PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND AND THE FILMS "HAIL THE TALL SHIPS" AND "TO FLY", ALL PROVIDED BY ICA.

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3. ONLY FIVE CHINESE CAME, HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF THE 12 INITIALLY AGREED UPON. AFTER A REMINDER THAT A LIST OF NAMES WAS NEEDED SO THAT INVITATION CARDS COULD BE SENT OUT, THE PRC EMBASSY BROUGHT OVER TWO. THE FIRST WAS A LIST OF "PRINCIPAL DIPLOMATS" ON WHICH APPEARED THE NAMES OF THE AMBASSADOR AND THREE COUNSELORS. THE SECOND WAS A LIST OF THOSE WHO WOULD ATTEND THE

DINNER-FILM EVENING. AMBASSADOR FAN TSOOU-KAI, HIS WIFE TSAI TSIEH, COUNSELOR TIEN TA-CHENG, ATTACHE LIU SHEH-YI, INTERPRETER FOR THE AMBASSADOR, AND LIU HUI-CHIEH, INTERPRETER FOR THE DCM. THERE WAS ALSO AN EXPLANATORY NOTE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, CHU CHAO-YUAN, WAS ON LEAVE AND THAT THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, SUI JUNG, WAS INSPECTING VARIOUS PRC AID PROJECTS UP-COUNTRY. THE FIVE LISTED AS COMING DID IN FACT ATTEND.

4. THE CHINESE WERE RELAXED AND SMILING AND SEEMED DETERMINED TO MAKE THE EVENING GO. THEY TALKED, MAINLY IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, AND THE TWO INTERPRETERS WORKED HARD IN FRENCH AND CHINESE. THE AMBASSADOR'S INTERPRETER, IN PARTICULAR, IS QUITE ACCOMPLISHED. THE AMBASSADOR'S WIFE SPEAKS SOME ELEMENTARY ENGLISH, HAVING STUDIED WITH THEIR INTERPRETER IN SOMALIA, AND MAKE AN EFFORT TO USE IT BEFORE DINNER WHEN THE TWO INTERPRETERS WERE ENGAGED IN CONVERSATIONS TOO FAR AWAY.

5. IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE CHINESE CONSIDERED THE EVENING PURELY SOCIAL AND NOT THE PLACE FOR ANY DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES. THERE WERE ONLY TWO SUBSTANTIVE BITS. ONE CONCERNED FOOD AID TO MALI. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, THE PRC AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE MALIANS

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HAD ASKED FOR 5,000 TONS OF CEREALS BUT THE PRC WAS HAVING PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF AN ONLY ORDINARY HARVEST AND BECAUSE OF ITS HUGE POPULATION, AND SO IT WAS SENDING ONLY 1,000 TONS OF WHEAT. NO RICE WOULD BE COMING. BOTH THE PRC AMBASSADOR AND COUNSELOR COMMENTED ON HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT MALI'S FOOD DEFICIT WAS AND TO BE SURE THAT FOOD AID REACHED THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEEDED IT. WE SAID WE HAD THE SAME CONCERNS. THE OTHER SUBSTANTIVE REMARK CAME FROM THE AMBASSADOR'S WIFE, WHO SAID WITH SUDDEN VEHEMENCE (IN CONNECTION WITH THE INFORMATION THAT FOUR OF THEIR SIX CHILDREN, INCLUDING ONE DAUGHTER, WERE IN THE ARMY) THAT THE PRC ARMED FORCES WERE "INVINCIBLE" AND WOULD "CRUSH" ANY ATTACKING ARMY. SHE LOOKED TO MAKE SURE THE INTERPRETER TRANSLATED HER STATEMENT CORRECTLY AND THEN SUBSIDED BACK INTO SMILING CHIT-CHAT.

6. AT THE END OF THE EVENING THE PRC AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED A RETURN DINNER THIS VERY WEEK BECAUSE HIS BEST COOK WAS GOING ON TWO MONTHS' HOME LEAVE. WHEN I EXPLAINED THAT THAT WAS NOT POSSIBLE OWING TO VARIOUS ALREADY-SCHEDULED EVENTS, HE SAID THERE

WOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH A DINNER SOMEWHAT LATER  
SINCE THE OTHER COOKS WERE PRETTY GOOD, TOO.  
HE CONCLUDED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT HE AND I SHOULD  
AGAIN FROM TIME TO TIME GET TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT  
MALI AND AFRICA.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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